

Appl. No. 09/658,158
Amtd. dated October 7, 2003
Reply to Office Action of July 17, 2003 (paper no. 11)

PATENT

REMARKS

Claims 1 – 66 have been examined. Claims 55 – 66 have been allowed; Claims 1, 2, 7, 11, 33, 34, 39, and 43 stand rejected as anticipated by U.S. Pat. No. 5,208,880 (“Riza”); Claims 12, 13, 18, and 44 – 46 stand rejected as anticipated by U.S. Pat. No. 6,404,942 (“Edwards”); and the remaining claims have been identified as allowable except for their dependence on rejected base claims.

The claims have been amended to incorporate limitations identified as patentable into each of the independent claims. In particular, Claim 1 has been amended to include the limitation of Claim 3; Claim 8 has been rewritten as an independent claim incorporating the limitations of Claims 1 and 7 from which it depends; Claim 12 has been amended to include the limitations of Claims 13 and 14; Claim 19 has been rewritten as an independent claim incorporating the limitations of Claims 12, 13, and 18; Claim 20 has been rewritten as an independent claim incorporating the limitations of Claims 12 and 13; Claim 33 has been amended to include the limitation of Claim 35; Claim 40 has been rewritten as an independent claim incorporating the limitations of Claims 33 and 39; Claim 44 has been amended to include the limitations of Claims 45, 46, and 47; and Claim 48 has been rewritten as an independent claim incorporating the limitations of Claims 44 and 45. Other claims have been canceled or amended for consistency with these amendments.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

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If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 303-571-4000.

Respectfully submitted,

Patrick M. Boucher
Patrick M. Boucher
Reg. No. 44,037

TOWNSEND and TOWNSEND and CREW LLP
Two Embarcadero Center, 8th Floor
San Francisco, California 94111-3834
Tel: 303-571-4000
Fax: 415-576-0300
PMB/nlm
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